



APD NEWS

Public Information Office: (512) 974-5017

715 E. 8th St. Austin, Texas 78701

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nov. 24, 2008

Contact: Public Information Office, 974-5017

Southeast Area Command alerts citizens about recent Burglaries of Vehicles

On Tuesday, November 25, 2008 APD's Southeast Area Command will host a news conference in the restaurant row parking lot located at IH-35 and Stassney Lane at 12:30 p.m. to alert citizens of Austin about an increase in burglaries of vehicles in the area.

During this event, Southeast Area District Representatives will be roaming the restaurant row parking lot, and looking into cars in search of valuables left in plain view. The Officers will then complete a Burglary of Vehicle Prevention "report card" which will be placed on the windshield of the vehicle.

Thieves target valuables left in plain view in vehicles. Commonly stolen items include purses, wallets, briefcases, cell phones, backpacks, CDs, radar detectors, laptops, MP3s, stereo equipment, and shopping bags.

Over the coming months, the SEAC will be increasing patrols and placing educational flyers on cars as a reminder to citizens to *LOCK, TAKE & HIDE* items inside their cars.

APD reminds you to protect your vehicles from auto theft and burglary by taking precautions that will make your vehicle less of a target:

- Take your keys – Nearly 20% of all stolen vehicles had the keys in them.
- Lock Your Car – Approximately half of all stolen vehicles were left unlocked.
- Park in well-lit areas – Over half of all vehicle theft occurs at night.
- Never Leave Your Engine Running – It is against the law in Texas to leave your keys in the ignition or your vehicle engine running. If convicted, you can be fined up to \$200.
- Do not leave valuables in plain view –don't make your car a more desirable target and attract thieves by leaving valuables in plain sight.



APD NEWS

Public Information Office: (512) 974-5017

715 E. 8th St. Austin, Texas 78701

- Install protection devices – Ignition kill switch, fuel kill switch, visible steering wheel lock, alarms and vehicle tracking.

The APD Auto Theft Interdiction Project programs are funded through the Texas Automobile Burglary and Theft Prevention Authority to reduce auto and burglary theft in the State of Texas.

Media Advisory: Southeast Area District Representative Officers will be on hand to answer questions about burglary of vehicles. Media can set up in the Chili's Parking lot at 12:30 p.m.

###

